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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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DISCUSS EGYPTIAN RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

The 5 January 1953 issue of Rose al-Yusuf contained three articles indicating that Egypt would soon recognize Communist China.

The first article stated that when Najib was asked by a newspaperman at a reception given the week before by the Rumanian Legation if the cotton negotiations between Egypt and China indicated a trend toward official recognition of Communist China, he replied that this recognition would soon be made.

The second article reported that Sardar K. M. Panikkar, Indian Ambassador to Egypt, will urge Egyptian recognition of Communist China and that he has prepared some memoranda to submit to the authorities when they take up this question.

The article also reported that high diplomatic circles say that this recognition is near, that most authorities in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs are in favor of a recognition agreement, and that these authorities had wanted a "gradual" recognition during the negotiations in Cairo in 1950, but put off this proposal for a "special" reason, which until now has been an obstacle to it. In this respect, the article continued, high Egyptian diplomats mention that Asaf Ali Asghar Fyzee, the former Indian Ambassador, brought Muhammad Salah ad-Din, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, an official message from Nehru on the Communist China question, and that it included a diplomatic memorandum prepared by Sardar Panikkar, at that time Indian Ambassador to China. Since Sardar Panikkar has been named Ambassador to Egypt, the article concluded, it is to be expected that Communist China will soon be recognized.

The third article stated that a conference of Arab and Asiatic countries would be held in Cairo in mid-February, and that the heads of these countries were invited. Should they not be able to attend themselves, they were invited to send delegates. The article reported that it was decided that the question of recognizing Communist China and also the formation of a permanent Arab-Asian bloc to develop an Arab-Asian neutral position would be taken up at this conference, and that Nehru would send in his behalf a political personality influential in Asia and the Arab countries.

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The 30 December 1952 issue of al-Misri referred to India's interest in Egypt's attitude toward Communist China and stated that Indian circles in Cairo feel that the Arab states and Egypt in particular could develop large-scale economic interests in China. The article continued with the conjecture that Mme Pandit would certainly consult with Sardar Panikkar during her visit to Cairo on the possibility of a change in the Arab attitude toward China, which would make China's acceptance into the UN certain and thus hasten a solution to the Korean problem. The article concluded with a reminder that recognition of a fait accompli is in line with Egyptian principles and does not constitute a recognition of a form of government nor the means that government employed to attain power.

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